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المراجع	IOR/L/PS/18/B333
العنوان	"مذكرة عن الكويت"
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لغة الكتابة	الإنجليزية في اللاتينية
الحجم والشكل	ملف واحد (ورقة واحدة)
المؤسسة المالكة	المكتبة البريطانية: أوراق خاصة وسجلات من مكتب الهند
حق النشر	<u>رخصة حكومة مفتوحة</u>

### حول هذا السجل

تقدم هذه المذكرة نبذة مختصرة عن تاريخ الكويت في ثماني فقرات. كما تورد بيانات موجزة عن أسرة ابن الصباح الحاكمة بما في ذلك مبارك بن الصباح، جابر بن مبارك، سالم بن مبارك، وعلاقاتهم مع بريطانيا، عبد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن بن فيصل آل سعود، وملك الحجاز حسين بن علي الهاشمي. كما تتحدث المذكرة عن "المؤشرات الإيجابية للنفط" والتجارة والبعثة الأمريكية والتعليم.

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#### NOTE ON KUWAIT.

The town and port of Kuwait was founded on the Arabian shore of the Persian Gulf about 250 years ago by the ancestor of the present ruling Shaikh, who, like Ibn Saud, traces his lineage to the tribe of Anaza, the noblest of all the Badawin tribes of Arabia. The throne of Kuwait has remained in the Ibn Subah family, as the dynasty is styled, without a break from the date of its foundation up to the present time.

The most famous of all the Shaikhs of Kuwait was Mubarak Ibn Subah, who died in 1915 and was among the greatest men that Arabia has produced during the last two centuries. The seaport of Kuwait achieved considerable notoriety in connection with the projected Berlin-Baghdad railway, of which it was designed to be the terminus, and it required all the subtlety and astuteness of a ruler, who has been excelled by few Orientals in the possession of those qualities, to maintain his independence amid the intrigues which his position provoked; but he pinned his faith unswervingly on His Majesty's Government and largely helped by the treaty relations with us, into which he entered when Lord Curzon was Viceroy of India, he succeeded in steering clear of international complications until the outbreak of war between Britain and Turkey enabled him boldly to espouse the cause which he had always favoured.

The death of Mubarak at an early stage of the war was a heavy loss to Great Britain; he was succeeded by his son Jabir, who did not however long survive his accession to power, and was followed by his brother Salim, the present ruler.

Shaikh Salim was called upon soon after his accession to the throne to co-operate with the British authorities in the strict enforcement of a blockade of enemy territory; his port was the most considerable commercial centre on the Arabian coast of the Persian Gulf, and at the same time the one most accessible to the enemy; and, though from time to time *contretemps* occurred, it may be recorded to Salim's credit that some success was achieved in the desired direction as the result of his acquiescence in the conduct of the blockade operations by British officers working in co-operation with the local staff.

From time to time Shaikh Salim and his predecessors have received substantial assistance from His Majesty's Government, notably in connection with the improvement of the water supply of Kuwait—a very necessary measure in view of the great commercial importance of the place, and of the fact that it is surrounded on all sides either by the sea or by waterless desert. The population of the town may be some 40,000, all of whom are directly concerned either with commerce—the bulk of the Kuwait trade being with Mesopotamia and India—or with shipbuilding and other sea-faring occupations.

On the invitation of His Majesty's Government Shaikh Salim has sent a delegation headed by his nephew, Ahmad Ibn Jabir, the son of Jabir and grandson of Mubarak, to offer his congratulations on the victory of His Majesty's forces over the enemy.

The relations of the ruler of Kuwait with his nearest neighbour, Ibn Saud of Central Arabia, are unfortunately not as happy as they might be in view of the intimacy of the two families which marked the reign of Mubarak; but their differences seem to be rather of a personal and perhaps religious, rather than of a political and permanent character, for Salim—unlike his easy-going father, Mubarak—is as staunch a champion of the orthodox faith as Ibn Saud is of the Wahhabi heresy. On the other hand the ruler of Kuwait is on the best of terms with the King of the Hejaz, whom Ahmad Ibn Jabir, the head of the present mission, visited last year during the pilgrimage.

Promising signs of oil have recently been discovered in the neighbourhood of the town, but have yet to be developed. Its prosperity, however, depends mainly on the thriving trade which it carries on between the interior of Arabia and Basra and India. At present it is by far the most important avenue of such trade; which consists chiefly of piece goods, sugar, coffee rice and tea. An American mission provides the inhabitants with education and medical requirements, but since the accession of Salim there has also been a large increase in the number of Muhammadan (Quranic) schools.